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Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether in the proposed amending Bill, the hon. Minister will include a provision abolishing the nomination of the presidentship of the district and taluk boards ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Notice."

Resolutions passed by the Salem District Board regarding the work of Mr. M. K. Duraiswami Ayyar.

*836 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether certain resolutions were passed by the Salem District Board, regarding the work of M.R.Ry. M. K. Duraiswami Ayyar Avargal, District Board Engineer, Salem, and communicated to Government;

(b) whether Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the said resolutions ;

(c) what action has been taken by the Government on the resolutions ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that similar resolutions had been passed by the South Kanara District Board also, censuring this officer, while he was District Board Engineer in that district ?

A.—(a) Yes

(b) No.

(c) They are under consideration.

(d) The Government have no information.

11-30 a.m. Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know when the resolution of the district board was communicatad to the Government ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" About a fortnight ago."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" By what date are orders expected to be passed, Sir ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I cannot give definite information as to when the orders will be passed."

Strengthening the piers of the Cauvery bridge at Komarapalayam in Salem district.

*837 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Rs. 53,000 was sanctioned in G.O. No. 1693, L. & M., dated 10th May 1927, for the work of strengthening the piers of the Cauvery bridge at Komarapalayam in Salem district ;

(b) whether it is a fact that only a sum of Rs. 6,100 has been spent on the work up to date ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the District Board Engineer executed most of that work departmentally, even though the work was given on contract ;

(d) is the policy of the district board not to do the work by departmental agency ;

(e) if so, what are the reasons of the District Board Engineer to execute the work departmentally ;

(f) whether any loss was sustained by such departmental work ;

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(g) whether the Salem District Board passed a resolution condemning the action of the District Board Engineer in this respect; and

(h) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government against the District Board Engineer in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) This is the expenditure up to end of March 1928.

(c) Yes.

(d) & (e) The Government have no information.

(f) The loss was apparently due to floods.

(g) Yes.

(h) No.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know, Sir, when the work was given on contract, and what made the District Board Engineer to execute the work departmentally?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"Because, he felt that the contractors were not competent enough to discharge that work."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"Once a contract has been entered into, will not the Board be liable for damages for breach of contract?"

The hon. the President :—"That is asking for an opinion."

Nomination of Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandya Nadar as Member and President of the Ramnad District Board.

838. Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to the nomination by the Government of Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandya Nadar, M.L.C., as Member and President of the Ramnad District Board—

(a) whether it is a fact that after the demise of the Raja of Ramnad, the District Board of Ramnad expressed to the Government their desire to be given the privilege of election;

(b) if so, why the Government decided again in favour of nomination;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Soundara Pandya Nadar is a resident of the Madura district, and that he is the whip of the Ministerialist party;

(d) whether the Government made any attempt to secure a competent candidate for the presidentship from among the Mussalmans, Christians or Adi-Dravidas residing in the Ramnad district;

(e) whether it is the principle of the Government to treat every sub-caste among the non-Brahmans as a minority community for purposes of patronage; and

(f) whether Mr. Soundara Pandya Nadar has had previous experience in the administration of local boards?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) To give minority communities a share in the presidentships of district boards.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.